

In claim 6, line 1, please delete "or 2".

In claim 7, line 1, please delete "or 2".

In claim 8, line 1, please delete "or 2".

In claim 9, line 1, please delete "or 2".

In claim 9, line 2, please delete "rays;" and replace with --rays,--.

Please enter new claims 23- 31:

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23. A method according to claim 2, wherein each of said plurality of particles is hydrophilic and comprises said detectable marker encased in from 2 to 10 layers of graphitic carbon.
24. A method according to claim 2, wherein the carrier is an aqueous medium or solution.
25. A method according to claim 24, wherein the aqueous medium or solution is 5% glucose in water.
26. A method according to claim 2, wherein each of said discrete particles has a cross-section of from about 5nm to about 30nm.
27. A method according to claim 2, wherein said reagent is administered in an amount such that the dose comprises about 100 ng or less of said particles.
28. A method according to claim 2, wherein said detectable marker is detectable by radiochemical techniques, magnetic resonance imaging or is optically detectable.